



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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27 MARCH 1965

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1. Cyprus

The possibility of disturbances this weekend within the Turkish community because of a shortage of wheat and flour [redacted] 50X1 has been averted by a government decision to issue an advance ration from next week's quota. This is another example of Makarios' virtuoso touch in judging when to ease pressures on the Turks.

Both Papandreou and Makarios expect that UN mediator Plaza's report next week will recommend new negotiations. Papandreou, in conversation with Ambassador Jernegan yesterday, was evasive on the question of negotiations with the Turks, although he said that with the submission of Plaza's report, the period in which talks are "inadvisable" would be "drawing to an end." Makarios, on the other hand, reportedly is all set to call for bilateral negotiations with the Turkish Cypriots alone.

Ambassador Hare reports that the Turks, despite the absence of emotional public drum-beating, are united in believing that the time has come for a showdown. He points out that this consensus embraces the government, the parliament, and the military, and has been achieved during the past week or so "seriously, stolidly, and resolutely." The Turks are considering military action against Greece itself as a last re-50X1 sort.

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2. Vietnam

No significant changes have been reported since yesterday in the military and political situation in South Vietnam.

Couve de Murville told Ambassador Bohlen yesterday that the French have heard nothing recently on the Vietnamese situation from Hanoi or Peiping. He gave the impression that Paris has for the moment abandoned any hopes of eliciting a favorable reaction on a conference. 50X1

3. Laos

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4. Lebanon

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5. Congo

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6. British Guiana

The Burnham government may have found a solution to its rice surplus, thanks to the Puerto Ricans, who have tentatively agreed to buy 10,000 tons now and up to 40,000 tons annually. The deal will freeze Cuba out of this trade and give Burnham a boost at the expense of Cheddi Jagan, who is even now in Havana.

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ANNEX

"Volunteers" for Vietnam

[redacted] 50X1

statements on this subject by the National Liberation Front for South Vietnam (issued Monday), the USSR (Tuesday), and Communist China (Friday). [redacted] 50X1

[redacted]

Hanoi: "The Front statement is a major one. It would not have been issued except at the direction of Hanoi. It makes clear that the North Vietnamese have not been deterred by US air action from continuing the war in South Vietnam. It may, however, reflect a growing awareness among the authorities in Hanoi of the likely painful consequences if the US air attacks are continued and gradually increased in intensity.

"The statement itself rehearses the well-known North Vietnamese and Liberation Front aims; namely, 'to drive out the US imperialists, liberate the South and reunify the country.' No mention is made of an independent or neutral Vietnam. On 'volunteers,' the Front says it will call for them if the US continues to commit combat troops and extend the war to North Vietnam and Laos."

Moscow: "Brezhnev's statement on Tuesday did not refer to the Front statement and was studiously vague about volunteers. He said that Soviet citizens were expressing their readiness to take part in the struggle of the Vietnamese people, but said nothing about the Soviet Government being ready to send them. He did, however, specifically state that the Soviet Union was already taking the necessary measures to help the defensive capacity of North Vietnam. We still are convinced that the Soviet Government is likely to wish to avoid going beyond sending military equipment which the North Vietnamese can operate themselves. We consider that the Soviet Government will be reluctant to commit personnel in a situation where their control of events is so limited and where the North Vietnamese and Chinese are in a position to continue the war if they so wish."

Peiping: "The Chinese waited until Friday, but then went further than the Russians. They responded directly and almost word for word to the Front statement (which suggests prior consultation), promising to send all necessary material aid, including arms and all other war materials, and expressing readiness to send their own men 'whenever the South Vietnamese people want them.' We consider that the Chinese, like the North Vietnamese and indeed the Russians, are aiming mainly to raise the temperature and thus to bring pressure to bear on the United States. Nevertheless, the Chinese have thus deliberately taken a small step nearer direct Chinese involvement (which would not necessarily, if decided upon, be in South Vietnam)."

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